DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 229 699 CG 016 670

AUTHOR McPhee, Jeffrey T.
TITLE Ambiguity and Role Transition in the Post-Divorce Family: A Symbolic Interactional Approach to Role Adjustment.
PUB DATE Oct 82
NOTE 17p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Council on Family Relations (Washington, DC, October 13-16, 1982).
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) -- Reports - General (140) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Adjustment (to Environment); Ambiguity; Counselors; *Divorce; *Emotional Adjustment; Family Counseling; Individual Development; Interaction; Literature Reviews; Models; *Role Theory; *Stress Variables

ABSTRACT

This document presents a divorce adjustment model which attempts to account for the wide range of factors influencing an individual's progress in the post-divorce adjustment process. Following a brief overview of related research, components of the divorce adjustment model are defined and propositions related to these components are discussed. Each of the next nine sections presents various aspects of the model including perceived amount of normative changes, role strain, role compatibility, level of life stress, clarity of role expectations, the new role and goal attainment, role overload, ambiguity of familial boundaries, and work and leisure influences. Related propositions and charts illustrating the function of each of the model's variables are presented along with a brief summary and statement of applications. A reference list is included. (WAS)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED229699

Ambiguity and Role Transition in the Post-Divorce Family: A Symbolic Interactional Approach to Role Adjustment

Jeffrey T. McPhee

Purdue University

Paper presented to the 1982 National Council on Family Relations Pre-Conference Workshop on Theory Construction and Research Methodology, Washington D.C., October 12-13.

CG 016670

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Jeffrey T. McPhee

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Introduction

The past few years have shown a marked increase in the study of divorce and it's impact on familial functioning. Articles on divorce range in topic from its effect on children's personality development (Lamb, 1977; Wallerstein and Kelly, 1980; Hetherington et al, 1979) to adjustment patterns in adults (Smart, 1977; Read, 1981). Attempting to synthesize the results of these studies reveals a major inhibitor to divorce research: the lack of a consistent definition and conceptual framework for studying patterns of divorce adjustment. Many theorists have described the divorce adjustment process, drawing comparisons to other theories (i.e. Eriksons' Stages of Development, Kuber-Ross' Stages of Death and Dying) but few have attempted to construct an objective, operational theory of divorce adjustment.

Working from a family systems orientation, marital dissolution is viewed as an event that triggers a wide range of reactions for all family members. In essense, the family system is thrown into a state of disequilibria as the dissolution of the marital subsystem necessitates the restructuring and redefinition of roles and tasks within the familial unit. It is the thesis of this paper that role adjustment, at the familial, interpersonal, and intrapersonal levels has a primary influence on the effects and adjustment to divorce for both spouses and children. In short, divorce adjustment is defined and analyzed from a Role Theory perspective. The Symbolic Interactional approach to human behavior outlined by Burr (1980) provides the theoretical base from which this theory was deduced.

The objectives of this paper are to: (1) present a theoretical framework which proposes relationships between variables affecting divorce adjustment, (2) present empirically testable propositions related to the theory, and (3) suggest applications of such a theory for family specialists. It should be noted that, for the sake of brevity, it is assumed that the reader has a basic understanding of the Symbolic Interactional approach. Readers who are not familiar with this approach should refer to Burr (1980).

Overview of Related Research

Once thought to be a deviant, dysfunctional event, divorce has become more acceptable today. The move towards "fault free" divorce is one indication of this, and today all but three states have some form of no-fault divorce law. Even our religious institutions have grown more permissive; a recent report indicates that the granting of annulments has climbed exponentially within the past few years (AAMFT Newspaper, July 1982). Based on National Center for Health Statistics data (Glick and Norton, 1979) it is projected that:

(1) of each 100 first marriages, 38 will end in divorce
(2) of the 38 divorces, 29 (75 percent) will remarry
(3) of these 29, 13 (44 percent) will divorce again

Thus, the need for more effort in theory construction and systemic evaluation of the antecedents and consequences of divorce is warrented in the divorce statistics.

The view of divorce as a "crisis of family transition and change" is not new; almost all divorce researchers have noted that separation creates the need for restructuring and change in the family. Brown (1977) hypothesized that divorce has two phases: a decision making phase and a restructuring phase. As is depicted in the model below, the decision making phase begins when the

couple first considers the possibility of divorce, and commences after the decision is made to separate. Once separated, a phase of restructuring begins. Brown identifies five "sub-processes" which are componants of the restructuring phase; Emotional, Legal, Parent-Child, Economic, and Social. The end product of the process, according to Brown, is the establishment of an independant and autonomous lifestyle for the divorcing individual. This model, while rather simplistic, highlights the process and restructuring perspectives, which are major premises of this theory.

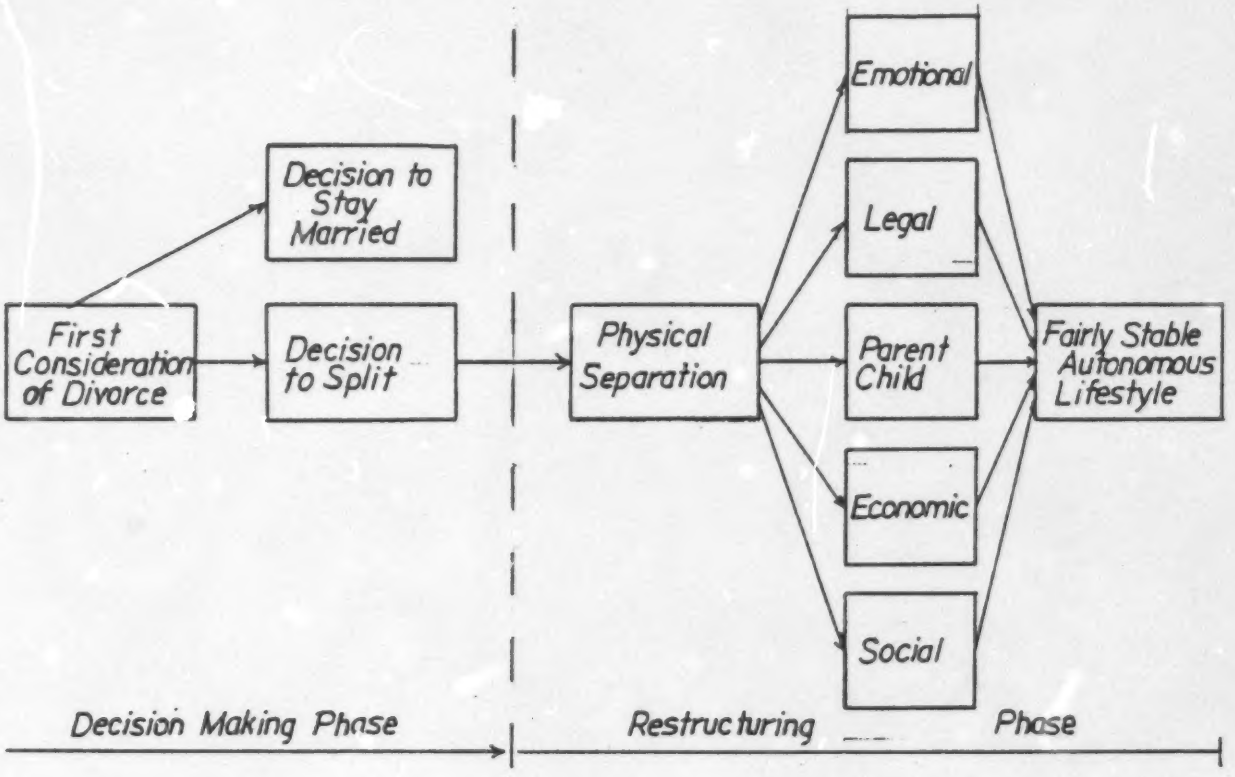

Figure 1: The Divorce Process

Research on the adjustment to divorce process is not new. In a recent review of divorce literature, Kitson and Rasche (1977) defined divorce adjustment as:

> ...an ability to develop an identity for oneself that is not tied to the status of being married or to the ex-spouse and an ability to function adequately in the role responsibilities of daily life home, work, and leisure time.

Spanier and Hansen (1979) operationalized divorce adjustment using four measures: (1) satisfaction with life, (2) self esteem, (3) a measure of positive

and negative feelings, and (4) an adaption of Kitson's measure of adjustment to separation. They did not use one single score for divorce adjustment, but rather, used the scores from all four scales as componants of adjustment. In her review of the divorce adjustment literature, Price-Bonham ( ) summarized the literature by identifying several componants corelated with divorce adjustment; namely:

(1) increased acceptance with oneself as an individual
(2) increased acceptance of new roles
(3) establishing autonomy from the former spouse
(4) building a new lifestyle
(5) connecting with both the micro and macro society
(6) re-generating one's sense of self-concept, self-trust, and trust of others

Thus, from previous studies it can be concluded that divorce adjustment constitutes a process of social, familial, interpersonal, and intrapersonal role redefinition. This redefinition is most commonly observed as the family members collectively and individually adapt and adopt roles to systematically account for losses caused by divorce and separation.

Conceptual Definitions Utilized in this Theory of Divorce Adjustment

In the process of constructing this theory several terms and constructs have been borrowed from Burr et al (1979) and Burr (1973). For the purpose of identifying and defining concepts utilized in this theory, Table 1 is presented. The definitions in Table 1 are provided to give the reader a brief overview of the terms used in the theory; concepts are explored with more depth in the next section of this paper.

Propositions Related to the Dependent and Independent Variables

The goal of this paper is to examine variables influencing Divorce Adjustment following Separation and Divorce, working them into an accounting model which creates a conceptual "gestalt." For the purposes of this text, Divorce Adjustment is operationally defined as the successful transition from pre-divorce familial roles to post-divorce familial roles for spouses and children. Divorce Adjustment is contingent upon the restructuring of role sets so that they meet the changing needs and demands of the post-divorce family. The models depict the influence of each variable on intrapersonal divorce adjustment. It should be noted that after careful consideration, two models (one specific to Spousal Adjustment, and the other to Children's Adjustment) were created for this theory. The rationale for this centers on some problems the author encountered in clarifying variables so that they could apply equally to both spousal adjustment and adjustment for the child. While for many of the variables the proposed propositions were similar, for others this was not true. Thus, the use of two models was warranted.

The conceptualization of Divorce Adjustment utilized in this paper is unique to the Symbolic Interactional (Role theory) approach. Following this approach, it follows that role transitions (from pre- to post-divorce roles) is the most critical factor upon which Divorce Adjustment for family members is contingent. Consequently, the following proposition evolves:

Proposition 1.0: As the ease of role adjustment and transition to functional post-divorce roles increases, divorce adjustment (for the child or spouse) is facilitated.

Role adjustment refers to the addition or deletion of roles in an individual's role set. In the context of this theory, this occurs in the process of moving from a married to a divorced family system. In the model presented below, the ease of Role Adjustment following Separation and Divorce is directly related to the individual's adjustment to divorce. The focus of this theory is on factors influencing the ease of Role Adjustment. The reader should note that when viewing the models, Propositions 3.04 through 3.11 differ for each model. In addition, the Spousal Adjustment model includes the influence of work and leisure, Propositions 7.0 and 8.0.

Perceived Amount of Normative Change

This variable, which comes from Burr's (1972) theory of Role Transitions, posits that variance in the amount of normative change required (i.e. the number and social significance of the individual roles that are changing in his/her role set) influences the ease of role transition. In other words, role change leads to changes in norms. Divorce necessitates many adjustment for the post-divorce family. Children might be changing schools, losing friends, and taking on new responsibilities in the home, while parents share in change of residence, increased or decreased parental functioning, changing work roles, and variations in leisure activity. Normative change follows as changes in roles and patterns of enacting roles become necessary. From this it can be posited that:

Proposition 2.0: The greater the perceived amount of normative change required in the transition to post-divorce roles, the less easy is the transition to these roles.

TABLE 1: CLARIFICATION OF VARIABLES USED IN DIVORCE ADJUSTMENT MODELS

VARIABLE	DEFINITION
NORMATIVE CHANGE	THE NUMBER AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NORMS THAT ARE CHANGING IN A PERSONS TOTAL ROLE SET AT ANY GIVEN TIME
ROLE STRAIN	STRESS GENERATED WITHIN A PERSON WHEN HE/SHE CAN NOT COMPLY OR HAS DIFFICULTY COMPLYING WITH THE EXPECTATIONS OF A ROLE OR SET OF ROLES
AMOUNT NEW OR ALTERED ROLE FACILITATES GOAL ATTAINMENT	DEGREE TO WHICH POST-DIVORCE ROLES HELP OR HINDER IN THE PROCESS OF GOAL ATTAINMENT (FAMILIAL AND PERSONAL GOALS)
ROLE OVERLOAD	PERCEPTIONS OF OVERWHELMING ROLE INVOLVEMENT: THAT ONE CAN NOT POSSIBLY ENACT ALL THE ROLES HE/SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
ROLE COMPATABILITY	THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE DEMANDS OF A ROLE COMPLEMENT THE DEMANDS OF OTHER ROLES IN THAT INDIVIDUALS ROLE SET
CLARITY OF ROLE EXPECTATIONS	THE DEGREE TO WHICH ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR ENACTMENT ARE AMBIGUOUS OR POORLY DEFINED
ROLE AMBIGUITY	THE DEGREE TO WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL UNDERSTANDS AND IS ABLE TO ENACT THE ROLES IN HIS/HER ROLE SET: THE DEGREE TO WHICH ROLES ARE CLEARLY DEFINED AND SUCCESSFULLY ENACTED
AMBIGUITY OF FAMILIAL BOUNDARIES	THE DEGREE TO WHICH FAMILIAL SYSTEMS AND SUBSYSTEMS ARE DIFFERENTIATED, AND WHERE FAMILY MEMBERS CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THEIR ROLE IN THE FAMILIAL SYSTEM

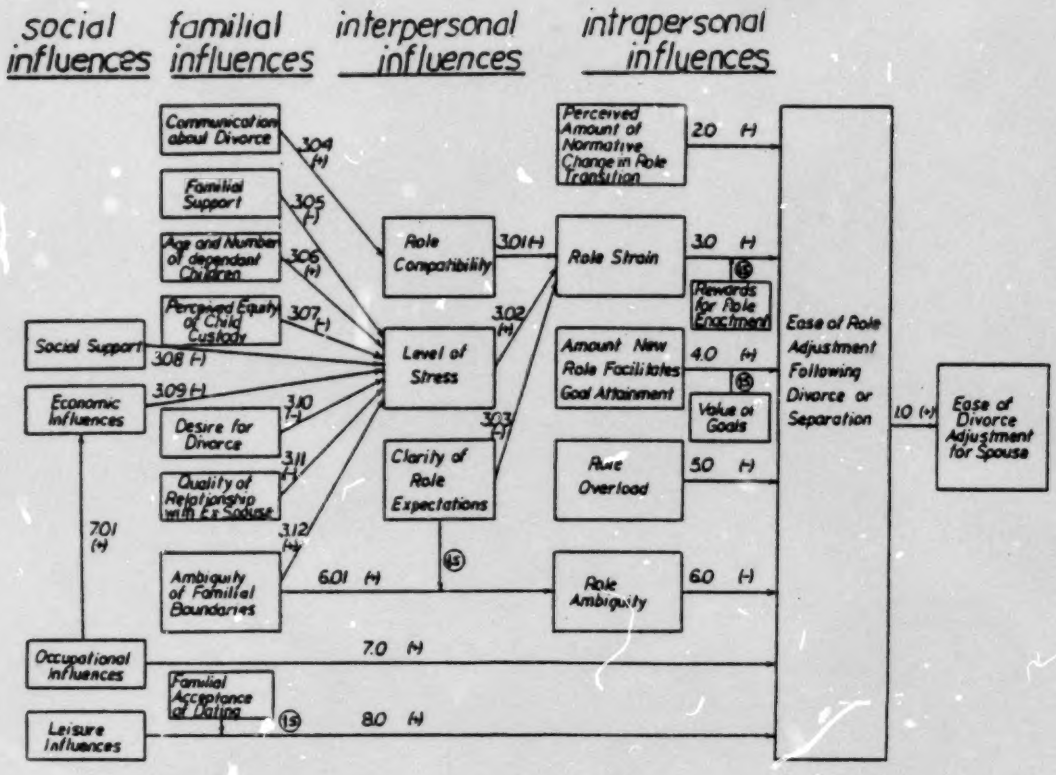

Figure 2: Ease of Divorce Adjustment for Spouse

Role Strain

From the early work of Goode (1960) role strain was defined as "felt difficulty in fulfilling role obligations." Burr (1980) expounded on Goode's definition, identifying role strain as "stress generated within a person when he or she either can not comply or has difficulty complying with expectations of a role or set of roles" (1980, 57). Applyed to divorce, role strain occurs when one is unable to enact the set of roles she/he is responsible for. Given the situation of the sole-custody parent who must assume many new roles once delegated to the former spouse, role strain frequently occurs in the early stages of adjustment. For a child, he/she might be over-whelmed by the added

responsibility and required maturity. From this, it is posited that:

Proposition 3.0: The greater the perceived role strain in engaging in post-divorce roles (or in the transition to these roles) the less easy Role Adjustment will be.

Role Compatability

Role compatability, or the degree to which the demands of new roles complement the demands of established roles, has an important influence on role strain. Researchers have found that when roles are highly compatable, or intertwined, stress is decreased (Ahrons, 1979; Wallerstein and Kelly, 1980). Thus, when new roles are similar or easily assimilated into existing role sets, less stress results. In working with families it has also been found that familial communication about divorce, its effects, and subsequent changes in the familial system facilitate role compatability. Thus:

Proposition 3.01: As role compatability increases, the degree of role strain experienced is lessened.

For the Spousal Model:

Proposition 3.04: As familial communication about divorce increases, role compatability increases.

And, for children:

Proposition 3.04: As the incidence of parent-child communication about the divorce and its effects on the familial structure increase, role compatability and subsequent role strain for the child decreases.

Level of Life Stress

It must be emphasized that divorce might not be the only stressor event occuring at a given time for an individual. Stressor events both associated with and independent of the divorce influence role strain.

Proposition 2.02: As the level of life stresses an individual is subjected to increases, role strain increases.

Given this relationship, several propositions emerge:

Propositions related to the Spousal Adjustment Model:

Proposition 3.05: As perceived approval and support from familial members increases, stress decreases.
Proposition 3.06: As the degree of dependency of children on the parent increases, stress increases.
Proposition 3.07: As perceived equity of the post-divorce child custody and visitation arrangement increases, stress decreases.

This factor is especially critical in post-divorce families where sole-custody is the arrangement. The traditional maternal bias present since the 1920's (80 percent of custody decisions are in favor of sole custody for the mother) often creates a great deal of dissatisfaction and stress for both partners. Increased perceptions of inequitable custody arrangements leads to increased stress for both the custodial and non-custodial parent.

Proposition 3.08: As perceived soical support from friends and cohorts increases, stress is decreased.

Raschke (1977) found that social interaction plays a critical role in divorce adjustment. According to her results, the more social interaction and/or involvement outside the home , the lower the stress associated with separation and divorce. Spanier and Casto (1979) and Spanier and Lachman (1980) report similar results.

Proposition 3.09: As the perceived economic stability of the post-divorce family increases, stress decreases.

Proposition 3.10a: As the degree to which divorce is sudden or unexpected increases, the degree of stress increases.

Proposition 3.10b: As the individual's desire for the divorce increases, stress decreases.

Proposition 3.10c: As the age at time of divorce and years married increases, the amount of stress experienced increases.

Propositions 3.10a through 3.10c examine the impact of the divorce decision on the individual. All three have been empirically tested elsewhere and were shown to have a significant impact (in the predicted direction) on stress (Sprenkle, 1981; Goode, 1956).

Proposition 3.11: As the quality of the relationship between ex-spouses following separation or divorce increases, stress decreases.

Propositions related to Children's Adjustment:

Proposition 3.05: As the child's desire for parental separation and divorce increases, the child's level of stress decreases.

Proposition 3.06: As the level of conflict and hostility exhibited between parents increases, the child's level of stress increases.

This variable has been emphasized by several researchers of children's reations to divorce. Jacobson (1978) found that interparent hostility led to increased stress for children. Her sample showed increased adjustment time and more negative effects for children in hostile than for children in non-hostile environments. Bane (1979) confirmed Jacobson's findings.

Proposition 3.07: **As children become more active with peers and significant social others, stress decreases.**

Bane (1979) found that children of divorce often avoid interaction with peers due to a fear of public humiliation or embarrassment. Increased activity with others helps not only to reduce anxiety and stress but to facilitate adjustment as well (Wallerstein and Kelly, 1980).

Proposition 3.08: **As perceived familial economic strain increases, stress decreases.**

Cantor (1979) notes the "amazing perceptiveness" of children affected by divorce who perceive their parent's stress due to economic factors and experience stress themselves as a result. Children in this situation often become actively involved by scheming to raise money or assist in parental budgeting.

Proposition 3.09: **As the quality of the parent-child relationship increases, divorce related stress decreases.**

Proposition 3.10: **As the child's perception of custody and visitation equity increases, stress decreases.**

Proposition 3.11: **As the child's ability to express his/her emotions related to the parental divorce increases, stress decreases.**

Clarity of Role Expectations

Burr (1980) posits that the greater the perceived clarity of role expectations, the less the role strain. One of the problems in divorce adjustment is that roles are not negotiated or assigned, but are spuriously assumed and enacted (by various family members) as enactment becomes essential. This is not only an ineffective method of dealing with familial roles and responsibilities, but it also creates an air of chaos within the family, and the expectations and rules governing the enactment of roles become implicity and undefined. Thus:

Proposition 3.03: **The greater the perceived clarity of role expectations, the less the role strain encountered.**

Amount New Role Facilitates Goal Attainment

As new roles and changes to role sets occur, these changes have an impact on the ease of role adjustment. Mre specifically:

Proposition 4.0: **As new roles and role changes facilitate goal attainment for the individual, the ease of role adjustment increases.**

Role Overload

As the number of roles an individual contains in her/his role set increases, the potential for role overload occuring increases. Similar to the therapeutic term "burn out," role overload refers to demands for role enactment which are

perceived to be too excessive for an individual. Consequently, the individual's ability to enact roles is greatly diminished. Therefore:

Proposition 5.0: As the demands for role enactment are perceived to be excessive and the individual becomes incapable of role enactment due to this strain, role overload occurs, greatly reducing the ease of Role Adjustment.

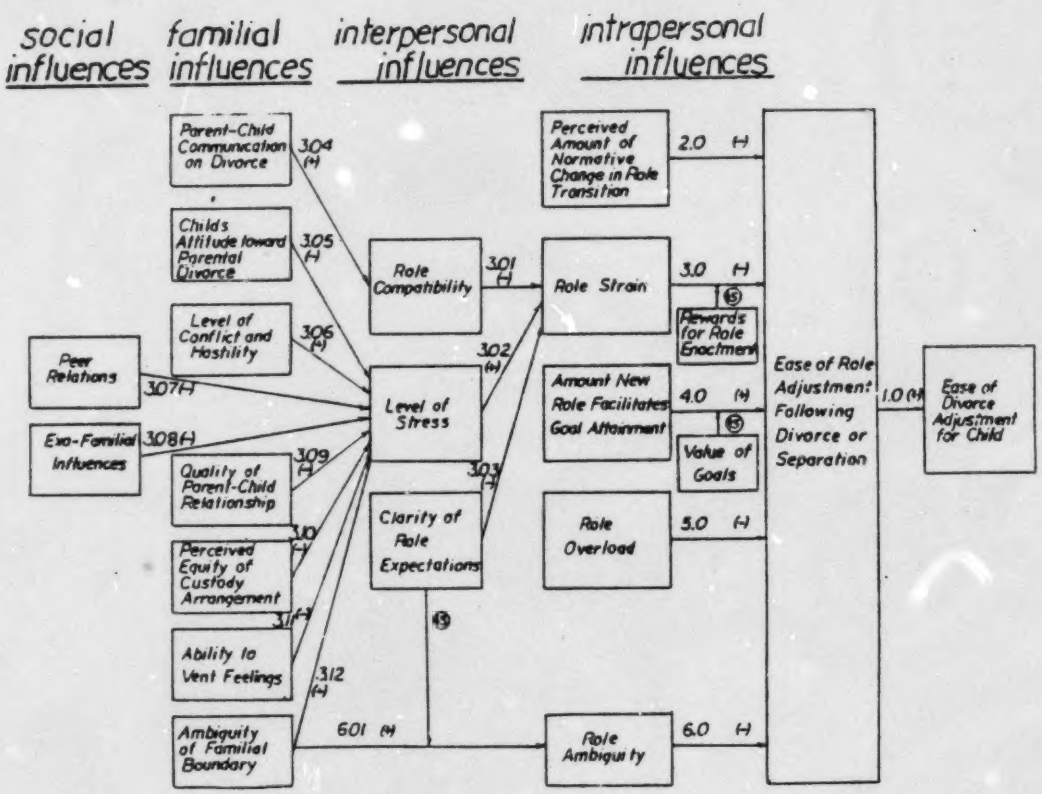

Figure 3: Ease of Divorce Adjustment for Child

Ambiguity of Familial Boundaries

Boundary Ambiguity is a concept which has been greatly neglected, save for the work of a few scholars. Boss (1977, 1980, 1981) in her work on father absense found boundary ambiguity to have a profound impact on familial functioning. Kantor and Lehr (1975) describe a process of distance regulation which characterizes boundary maintenence in all families observed. In short, while a few studies have hypothesized the effects of boundary disruption (at the subsystem level), fewer have operationalizaed or researched their claims. In this theory of divorce adjustment, boundary ambiguity is described as a lack of clarity in the implicit norms and role assignments that distinguish subsystems and systems from each other.

The flowchart presented below is given as an illustration of the role of boundary ambiguity in divorce adjustment. The primary hypothesis from this construct is that ambiguity of roles (as caused by marital dissolution) leads to ambiguity of familial boundaries. This ambiguity then leads to consequent conditions which feed back into the antecedent variables; in effect, forming a self-perpetuating network of ambiguity in the familial system. It is important to note that the factors interrupting the feedback loop are the mechanics of role restructuring and negotiation, which, as can be seen from the earlier models, constitute divorce adjustment from a Symbolic Interactional view. Thus, boundary ambiguity is a natural consequence of subsystem dissolution (i.e. separation and divorce) and is reduced through the divorce adjustment process.

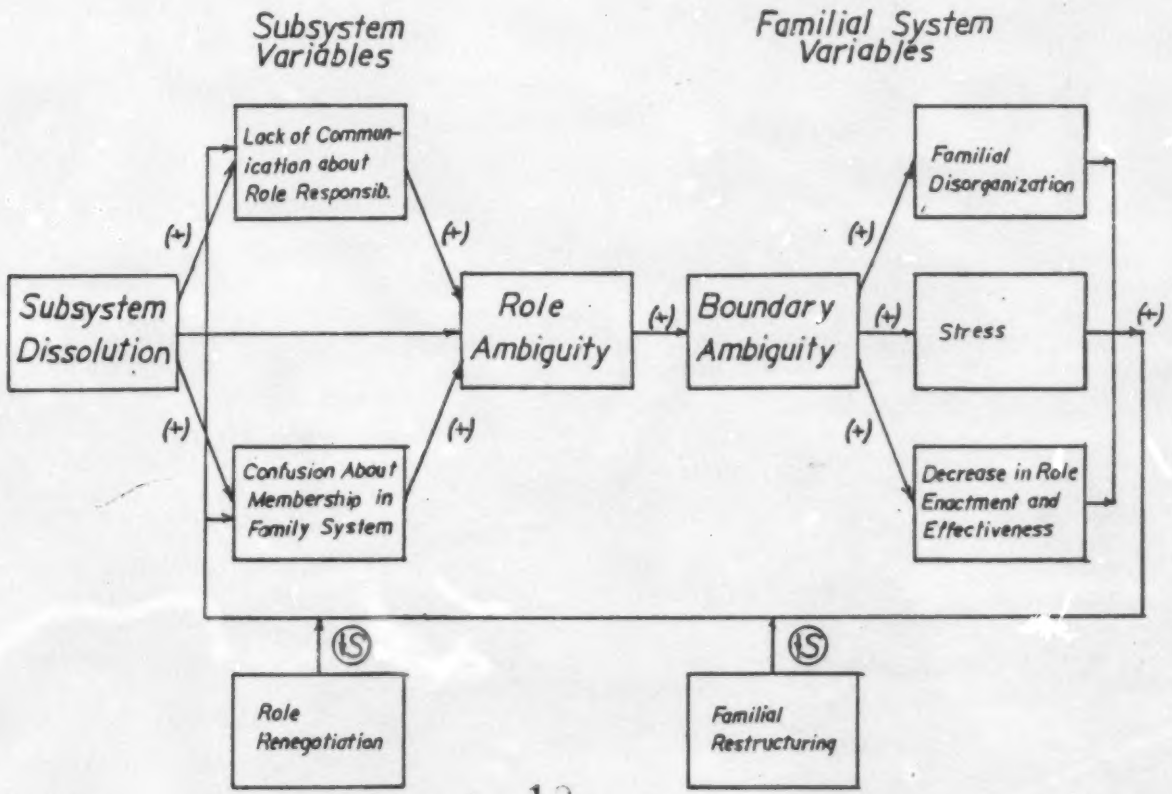

Figure 4: The development of Boundary Ambiguity in the family system.

Boundary ambiguity, as Ahrons (1980) states, "further complicates role changes." Boss (1980) states that stress continues in the family system until membership is clarified and the system is reorganized in regard to:

(1) who performs what roles and tasks, and
(2) how familial members are to perceive the absent member.

From this, it is posited that:

Proposition 6.0: As Role Ambiguity increases, the ease of role adjustment decreases.
Proposition 3.12: As Boundary Ambiguity increases, the level of life stress increases.
Proposition 6.1: As familial boundaries become more ambiguous, Role Ambiguity for the individual increases.

Work and Leisure Influences

The influence of work and leisure on intrapsychic adjustment has been documented by several theorists. At times of crisis and stress, the individual can find strength and support in work and leisure activity. These two variables are admittedly underdeveloped in this theory. While their influence is established, the author is still processing their specific impact. At this time, the following propositions are tenatively proposed:

Proposition 7.0a: As the role of occupational involvement in an individual's life increases in priority, increased occupational involvement following divorce leads to an increase in the ease of role adjustment.
Proposition 7.0b: As occupational involvement becomes more recreational (as perceived by the individual) and less averse, increased occupational activity following divorce leads to an increase in the ease of role adjustment.
Proposition 7.1: As work related activity increases, perceived economic stability increases.
Proposition 8.0: As the incidence of dating behavior after divorce increases (for the spouses) the ease of role adjustment increases.

In short, work and leisure roles for the adult have been shown to influence the adult's reaction to crisis events. There two variables need further exploration and development.

SUMMARY AND APPLICATIONS

While still in it's founding stage, this theory has some interesting implications. To date no such analysis of the adjustment-to-divorce process has been engaged. Many theorists have mapped stages of adjustment, but this is the first attempt to outline factors influencing Divorce Adjustment, weaving them into a conceptual framework held together by a series of empirically testable propositions.

In terms of research, the operational definitions and hypothetical nature of the propositions allows for future testing. This author plans at a future date to attempt an analysis of Divorce Adjustment, using a scaling procedure based on the model proposed in this paper.

The models presented also have a good deal of worth in a therapeutic setting, in providing both a framework for therapy and assessment. In evaluating a client's progress, the model provides a schema of the factors which could be inhibiting or accepterating adjustment.

In short, in Divorce Adjustment research few theories exist to account for the wide range of factors influencing an individual's progress. This theory was formulated as the first step in constructing such a theory. It is the belief of this author that with time this theory could evolve into a powerful therapeutic and theoretical framework for further research and theory construction.

Selected References

Ahrons, C. The binuclear family: two households, one family. Alternative Lifestyles, 1979, 2, 499-515.

Ahrons, C. The continuing co-parental relationship between divorced spouses. Paper presented at the 1980 Annual Meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, Toronto, Canada, April 1980.

Anderson, H. Children of divorce. Journal of Clinical Child Psychology, 1977, 6, 41-43.

Anthony, E.J. and Koupernik, C. The child in his family: children at psychiatric risk. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1974.

Bane, M.J. Marital disruption and the live of children. in Levinger, G. and Moles, C. Divorce and Separation. New York: Basic Books, Inc. 1979.

Boss, P.G. A clarification of the concept of psychological father prescence in families experiencing ambiguity of boundary. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1977, 39, 141-151.

Boss, P.G. Normative family stress: family boundary changes across the life-span. Family Relations, 1980, 29, 445-452.

Burr, W. Theory construction and the sociology of the family. New York: Wiley, 1973.

Burr, W., Leigh, G.K., Day, R. and Constantine, J. Symbolic interaction and the family. in Burr, et al, Contemporary Theories about the Family. New York: Free Press, 1979, 42-111.

Cantor, D.W. Divorce: a view from the children. Journal of Divorce, 1979, 2, 357-378.

Cline, D.W. Inmpact of divorce on the family. Child Psychiatry and Human Development, 1971, 2, 78-83.

Deroeyn, A.R. Children in divorce: intervention in phase of separation. Pediatrics, 1977, 50, 20-27.

Glick, P. and Norton, A. Marrying, divorcing, and living together in the U.S. Today. Population Bulletin, 1979, 32, 4-34.

Goode, W. Women in divorce. New York: Macmillan, 1956.

Henning, J.S. and Cloham, J.T. Children of divorce: legal and psychological crises. Journal of Clinical Child Psychology, 1977, 6, 55-58.

Hess, R. and Camara, K. Post-divorce family relationships as mediating factors in the consequences of divorce for children. Journal of Social Issues, 1979, 35, 79-96.

Hatherington, E. Divorce: a child's perspective. American Psychologist, 1979, 34, 851-858.

Hetherington, E., Cox, M. and Cox, R. Divorced fathers. Family Coordinator, 1976, 25, 417-428.

Jacobson, D.S. Impact of marital separation/divorce on children: interparent hostility and child adjustment. Journal of Divorce, 1978, 2, 3-19.

Jacobson, D.S. Impact of marital separation/divorce on children: parent-child communication and child adjustment. Journal of Divorce, 1978, 2, 175-195.

Kantor, D. and Lehr, W. Inside the family. San Francisco: Josey-Bass, 1975.

Karelitz, S. Children of divorcing parents. Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine, 1960, 36, 586-587.

Kessler, S. and Bostwick, S.H. Beyond divorce: coping skills for children. Journal of Clinical Child Psychology, 1977, __, 38-41.

Kulka, R. and Weingarten, H. The long-term effects of parental divorce in childhood on adult adjustment. Journal of Social Issues, 1979, 35, 50-77.

Lamb, M.E. The effects of divorce on children's personality development. Journal of Divorce, 1977, 1, 163-174.

Levinger, G. and Moles, . Divorce and separation. New York: Basic Books, 1979.

Magrab, P. For the sake of the children: a review of the psychological effects of divorce. Journal of Divorce, 1978, 1, 233-245.

McDermott, J. Parental divorce in early childhood. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry , 1967, 37, 303-304.

Pais, J. and White, T. Family refinition: a review of the literature toward a model of divorce adjustment. Journal of Divorce, 1979, 2, 271-282.

Pope, H. and Mueller, C. The intergenerational transmission of marital instability: comparisons by race and sex. Journal of Social Issues, 1976, 32, 49-66.

Read, J. Effects of masculinity and femininity on divorce adjustment. in press, 1981.

Smart, L. An application of erikson's theory to the recovery-from-divorce process. Journal of Divorce, 1977, 1, 67-79.

Sorosky, A. The psychological effects of divorce on adolescents. Adolescence, 1977, 12, 123-132.

Sprenkle, D.H. Sudden divorce: the stress of emotional abandonment from the unwanted-unexpected divorce. in Figley, et al (eds.) Stress in the Family (in press).

Storm, S. and Sprenkle, D. Individual treatment in divorce therapy: a critique of an assumption. Journal of Divorce, (in press).

Wallerstein, J.S. and Kelly, J.B. Surviving the break-up. New York: Basic Books, 1980.

Weiss, R. Growing up a little faster: the experience of growing up in a single-parent household. Journal of Social Issues, 1979, 35, 97-111.

Weiss, R. The continuing relationship of husbands and wives. in R. Weiss, Marital Separation. New York: Basic Books, 1975.

Westman, J. Effect of divorce on child's personality development. Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality, 1972, 6, 38-55.

Young, D. A court mandated workshop for adolescent children of divorcing parents: a program evaluation. Adolescence, 1980, 15, 763-772.